THE Chriſtian Hiſtory;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival of Religion in *Great Britain*, *America*, &c.

Saturday AUGUST 4. 1744. § Nº. 75.

The Progreſs of the Revival at Dundaff *in the Pariſh of* Kilſyth *and* St. Ninians, *from Mr.* Robe's *Chriſtian Hiſtory*, Numb. 1.

THERE is a Country, ſituate upon the North Side of the Hills of *Kilſyth*, called *Dundaff*: it lieth upon both Sides of the River of *Carron*. *Dundaff* upon the South-ſide of *Carron*, from the Bridge upon the Eaſt End to the Foot of the largeſt Rinn in the Weſt End, which is above two Miles, belongeth to the Pariſh of *Kilſyth*. *Dundaff*, upon the North Side of *Carron*, is a much larger and more populous Country, and belongeth to the Pariſh of *St. Ninians*; a good Part of it is above five Miles from their Pariſh Church. Many of them ordinarily attend public Worſhip at *Kilſyth*, being within three Miles. The Miniſter of *St. Ninians*, four or five Times in the Year, and ſometimes oftner, preacheth in that Country. The Reverend Mr. *James Machie* and I live in ſuch ſtrict Friendſhip, that we do all the Service in that County, when we are there, as if it were the ſame Pariſh, and were the Charge of the Perſon preſent.

In that Part of *Dundaff* appertaining to the Pariſh of *Kilſyth*, I frequently lamented and complained to them, that, by all that I could know, I laboured in vain among them, and ſpent my Strength for nought; for though they had Knowledge, and attended upon public Ordinances, and Diets of catechiſing well, yet I could not find that the Word preached, and other Means profited them. None of them appeared ſo much as to have *a Form of Godlineſs*, a very few excepted. I dealt with them in their Families; and when I catechiſed in the moſt preſſing Way I could, I told them their Danger in the plaineſt Manner. I preached the Terrors of the Law to them,

not only when conveen'd together, but perſonally in the ſtrongeſt Terms. I declared to particular Perſons, that they were unregenerate, and if they died in that State, they would die eternally, and gave them ſuch Evidences of it as ſtopt their Mouths. For the moſt Part, they took all well; but, at the ſame Time, I could obſerve no Fruit, no Change, amongſt them to the better.

When the Lord viſited this Congregation in the Spring and Summer 1742, by pouring forth his Holy Spirit ſo diſcernably as to the Effects; it gave me much Grief, that, for ſome Months, I could obſerve no Inſtances of any awakened in thatSide of theParish, nor hear of any Change to the better among them.---The Lord was pleaſed at length to pity and viſit that barren Wilderneſs; for, from the giving the Lord's Supper here in the Month of *July*, there were frequent Inſtances of Perſons awakened, who belonged to *Dundaff*, upon both Sides of *Carron*. Some of them received their firſt good Impreſſions at *Kilſyth*, and ſome at *St. Ninians*, eſpecially when the Lord's Supper was given there in the Month of *Auguſt* that Summer. In the Month of *September*, the Harveſt being later by ſome Weeks in that Country than in this Part of *Kilſyth*, I went and preached there at *Carron* Bridge upon a Week Day: The Subject I explained and applied to them, as the Lord was pleaſed to aſſiſt, was the Parable of the Tares of the Field, *Math.* xiii. from the 36th to the 44th. ---The Lord made his *Word ſharper than a two-edged Sword, to peirce* ſeveral of their Hearts. I diſcourſed with ſeveral of the Diſtreſs'd after Sermon. I ſtayed in the Country until the next Day, when I met with more of them. I perſuaded them to ſet up a Meeting forPrayer and religiousConference; and could not find that Day above five or ſix from both Sides of *Carron*, with one occaſionally from *Campſy*, to make up ſuch a Meeting. I had Occaſion to converſe with ſeveral of them under religious Impreſſions, ſince that Time, as alſo the Miniſter of *St. Ninians* and his Aſſiſtant had the like Occaſion.

About the middle of *September* laſt, I viſited that Part of this Pariſh: and, to my great Surpriſe, found a Change to the better in that Country, beyond what I expected; and which, I hope, ſhall yet increaſe. 'Tis true, I found ſeveral who were as ſecure and ſtupid as ever; yet I found, every now and then, particular Perſons and Families,

who

who were aſking for the Way to *Zion*, *with their Faces thitherward*. And I not only preached in their Houſes, but, in my travelling between Houſes, was obliged to ſpeak to the Caſe of diſtreſt and doubting Chriſtians, who came to me.

I met with their general Society for Prayer at Night, and diſcourſed to them, and prayed with them, and bleſſed them in the Name of the Lord. I heard ſome of them pray to my great Satisfaction.---I found that, from the few who began that Meeting, they were increaſed to above twenty, beſides Women who had been awakened, to the Number of nine or ten.---They had divided themſelves into two Societies, who met punctually once a Week, and every fourth Week they meet in one general Meeting. I was well pleaſed with their Rules, which are but few and obvious.-----Altho' in the Part of the Pariſh on this South Side of the Hills, I have oblig'd Men and Women to meet in different Societies; yet I did not diſcourage the Women's meeting with the Men in *Dundaff*, being the moſt of the Men are aged and married, and that the Women need much the Inſtruction that they may have there, from the Prayers and Conference of the Men, in this State of the Infancy of Religion in that Country: It ſeems alſo to be warranted in ſuch a State from *Acts* i. 14.

Although I had laboured much that Day until it was late, I was never more refreſhed and comforted. I was glad and rejoiced in what God had created in this Country: For behold he hath created it, in ſome Meaſure, *a Rejoicing, and her People a Joy*. He hath poured forth *his Spirit from on High, and the Wilderneſs is become a fruitful Field*. And I verily think, that at the Time, they ſeem to be preſſing more into the Kingdom of God in that Country than theſe here: ſo that if they hold on, comparatively with theſe here, *the firſt will be laſt, and the laſt firſt*. The Reverend Mr. *Mackie* hath alſo been with them, is encouraging them, and is glad to ſee the Grace of God among them.

I inquired particularly into the Evidences they could give me, of a Change in that Country to the better, beſides what I had obſerved, or might obſerve, whilſt I was among them: I deſired alſo that ſome one of them might draw it up in Writing, and ſend it me; which accordingly hath been done; which I communicate to the Reader, in the Words and Grammar of the plain honeſt Countryman who drew it up, and it is as followeth.

Reverend Sir,

IN Obedience to your Command, and to ſatisfy your Deſire, as you left Charge with our Brother *****, I have employed ſome of my ſpare Hours, to give you an Account of the preſent State of this Country, and what Progreſs Religion ſeems to have made among us; and it ſhall be according to Truth, thro' the Aſſiſtance of the Divine Spirit. And, according to my ſtricteſt Obſervation, from the Year 1726, in which I came to reſide in this Country, to the Year 1742, I could obſerve nothing but Irreligion, Prophanity, and Immorality of all Sorts, prevailing among this People, the Ordinances of the Lord habitually neglected, his Sabbath profaned, and Family Exerciſe neglected; ſo that one could not have found a ſerious Perſon, two or three excepted, to have diſcourſed with in thoſe Bounds. But in *May* 1742, when it pleaſed the Lord, in ſuch a remarkable Way, to pour out his Spirit upon many in your Congregation at *Kilſyth*, many of the People of this Country reſorted thither. For mine own Part, the firſt that I obſerved was upon a Lord's Day, in the latter End of *May*, when, not being at the Church myſelf, I met with one accidentallly who had been in your Church, of whom I aſked, where he had been? Who anſwered me, he had been at *Kilſyth*, and ſolemnly bleſſed God therefor; and ſaid, that he hoped he would bleſs God all his Life, for what he had heard and ſeen there to Day. He ſeemed to have more than an ordinary Concern upon him. I was thereat ſurprized, and reſolved to attend next Preaching-Day, where I was Witneſs to that which made me aſtoniſhed, untill I had conſidered the ſame, and compared it with the Word of God. By my daily Attendance, I obſerved, that moſt Part of our Neighbourhood did likewiſe attend: But was ſurprized, that I could not obſerve, that any of them were affected in the Way others were, until the firſt Sacrament you adminiſtered that Year. Being preſent upon your Faſt-day, I obſerved ſeveral of our Country to be very much concerned: To my certain Knowledge, there were awakened of our Neighbourhood, then and before, about four or five Perſons. I acknowledge, they did not cry out in the Congregation; but, having Acceſs to know their State, by my frequent Converſe with them, whether more ſlow or more ſharp, their Awakenings were all of one and the ſame Sort. Upon Monday after that Ordinance, I came Home

with

with one of our Neighbourhood, a ſerious and judicious Chriſtian, whom I preſſed very much to have a Meeting before our Sacrament, (in the Pariſh of *St. Ninians*) which was then nigh: He readily conſented, and, taking in with us one of the Elders of our Pariſh, we met in his Barn, to my great Satisfaction. There were other ſeriousPerſons in the Neighbourhood, who were under Trouble, that earneſtly deſired to join with us: But there were no more Meetings, till ſome Time after our Sacrament, at which Time I perceived the Trouble of the awakened to increaſe. Upon the Saturday, and upon the Monday, there were one or two more awakened. I can give little more Account, but only that I obſerved their Concern to continue, and that they frequently reſorted to me, and ſome other Perſons, for what Inſtruction our weak Capacity could give; until you came to preach at *Carron-bridge*, where many of our People ſeem'd to be affected; and, by your coming to *Craigannet*, you had the Opportunity of diſcourſing with ſome of them, to whom you recommended the great Benefit of Fellowſhip Meetings, and required that there might be one ſet up amongſt us. The very next Day afterwards, they informed me thereof, at which I rejoiced, that you had fortified, by your Advice, what I ſo much intended. Our Meeting was ſet up, conſiſting of ſeven Members in this Pariſh, two from your Pariſh, and one from *Campſie*. By this Means, together with the Preaching of the Word, the Lord was pleaſed to work a Change upon many; ſo that many, both Men and Women, earneſtly deſired to join with us; we always making it a neceſſary Condition, that they attended Ordinances cloſe, kept Family Worſhip Evening and Morning, and that they were to be much in the Duty of ſecret Prayer: So that our Number is now increaſed to twenty-two Men, and nine Women; and it hath pleaſed theLord ſo to bleſs ourEndeavours to inſtruct one another, that Knowledge is wonderfully increaſed among us. And I have been at Pains, not only to inform myſelf, but alſo to take the moſt ſtrict Obſervation, that FamilyWorſhip is duly kept, and the Ordinances punctually attended, by all our Number; as alſo Curſing, Swearing, Lying, Evil-ſpeaking, Grudge and Prejudice, and allActs of Immorality, ſeem quite to be aſham'd; and I have all Reaſon to hope, that brotherly Love and Affection now prevail among us. As to the Generality of the Country, beſide thoſe that have joined in the Meeting, there

ſeems

ſeems to be ſomething like an outward Reformation amongſt them; ſo that now many are aſhamed to be guilty of their former Practices: And I have obſerved Family Worſhip to be ſet up in ſeveral Families, who have not as yet joined with us, and that they frequently wait upon the Ordinances. I muſt own, indeed, that ſome are as bad as ever. Notwithſtanding of what I have ſaid, I am unable to know how far the great End is attained amongſt the Generality: But, in the Judgment of Charity, I deſire to hope the beſt of all, whoſe Lives are not openly profane, and are in the Uſe of appointed Means. Likewiſe I think fit to inform you, that there are ſix or ſeven of thoſe who were firſt awakened, whoſe Awakenings ſeemed to be very ſharp, who are now bleſſing the Lord, and rejoicing that he was ever pleaſed to work upon their Hearts by ſuch ſharp Awakenings; of whom, by my frequent Converſe with them, I have the greateſt Reaſon to conclude, that they have fled to Chriſt, and have embraced him, and are willing to be eternally indebted to him for their Salvation. Others there are with whom I have obſerved this Work to go on more ſlowly: Yet I have the greateſt Evidence, that it is the Spirit of the Lord that is working upon their Hearts, and hope it will come to a good Account. There are three or four that are juſt now under Trouble; ſome of whom you know and have converſed with, and upon whom we take all the Pains we can, not only publickly in our Meetings, but privately by what Advice and Inſtruction we can give. This is what Account I can give at preſent of the Progreſs of Religion amongſt us: and ſince you are pleaſed to deſire me to give the above Account, I think it proper to ſend it, atteſted by two of our Elders, and ſome other judicious Chriſtians, who have Acceſs to know the Truth of all that I have ſaid. *Sic ſubſcribitur*

Craigannat, Sept. 9th, 1743. WILLIAM KNOX.

The Truth of the within Account of the preſent State of this our Country, the Progreſs of Religion, and Succeſs of the Goſpel therein, is hereby atteſted by us Subſcribers, we having lived in this Country, two of us this long Time, the third only theſe three Years paſt; and thereby having Opportunity of knowing perfectly the Truth of what is within declared, we do declare, that the Giver of this Account hath done

done it according to the exacteſt Rules of Truth, and we do, with him, bear Teſtimony to the ſame, by this our Atteſtation, written and ſubſcribed with our Hands, at *Craigannat*, this 26th Day of *September*, 1743. *Sic ſubſcribitur*

DAVID LITTLEJOHN, Elder.
WILLIAM BOW, Elder.
PETER BELL.

A farther and more particular Account of the late Revival at MUTHELL, *; from a Copy of a Letter from the Rev. Mr.* Haly *to a Gentleman at* Edinburgh, *as tranſmitted hither in the laſt Ship from* SCOTLAND.

S I R, *Muthell*, *Auguſt* 29th, 1743.

YOUR's of the 9th of *Auguſt* I received upon the 15th, wherein you deſire an Account of the Diſpenſation of the Grace of God in this Congregation. For ſome Time after this glorious Work began, I was averſe from publiſhing any Thing about it, fearing it might ſavour too much of Oſtentation and Vain-Glory, and did nothing this Way 'till it was publiſhed by a Neighbour Miniſter to ſome at a great Diſtance. But at length fearing that I might run into another Extreme, *viz.* Of ſmothering the Redeemer's Glory; upon preſſing Applications to me, I publiſhed what the Lord has done for many of the Souls of this People, particularly in two Letters I ſent to Mr. *Robe*, which he thought fit to publiſh in his Narrative, to which I refer you. However that you and any others you correſpond with, may be informed of the Goings of our God and King in his Sanctuary in this Place, and that you may join with us in Prayer and Praiſes, I ſhall give you the following Account of the Beginning and Progreſs of the great Work of God in this Place.

About a Year before this Work came to be openly obſerv'd, there was a ſecret Stirring and Concern among the People, like the Motion (as ſome called it) upon the Tops of the Mulberry-Trees. This I was inform'd of by ſome religious Elders from different Corners of the Pariſh. Something of it appear'd in Public upon the firſt Sabbath of *January* 1741,2, which happening to be a ſtormy Day, and I having prepared ſomewhat to be deliver'd that Day which I was fond the whole Congregation ſhould hear, and expecting but a ſmall Meeting, upon Sabbath Morning I changed my Text: and finding more than

than ordinary Freedom in preaching upon it that Day, I inſiſted upon it the next Lord's Day alſo. Both Days I obſerv'd an unuſual Tenderneſs & Concern among many of the Hearers, and I was told much more of it afterwards. I was inform'd of a praying Diſpoſition ſtirred up among the People, beyond what had been formerly obſerved. I noticed a cloſer Attention to the Word preached, and ſomething of a Concern appearing upon ſeveral; all which gave me ſomeGround to hope, that a graciousGod was about to viſit this Place with ſome extraordinary Diſpenſation of his Grace; And many Prayers were put up for it, for when the Lord prepares the Heart he cauſes his Ear to hear. Thus it continued 'till the third Sabbath of *July* thereafter, at which Time the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was diſpenſed in this Place. Some Sabbath Days before, and upon the Sacrament Day, the Goings of our mighty King in the Sanctuary came to be moſt diſcernable. Many can ſay from their ſweet Experience, that they felt his Power and ſaw hisGlory, & that God was in thisPlace. The Arrows of the mightyKing were that Day made to ſtick faſt in the Hearts of his Enemies. Many were brought to lie at the Conqueror's Feet, crying for Mercy, and what ſhall we do to be ſaved. But much more of this has appeared ſince. For many Months after, ſcarce a Sabbath has paſs'd, but ſome have been awakened; and ſo many on ſome Lord's Days that I was obliged to call the Aſſiſtance of ſome religious and experienced Elders, not being able to ſpeak to them all who were diſtreſſed. A great many have opened their Caſe to me, others unto the Elders, and ſeveral have concealed their Trouble until they got a comfortable Out-gate, of which they have given a ſatisfying Account afterwards. As to their Exerciſe, ſo far as I can judge, it has been ſcriptural and agreeable to the Experience of the Saints that have trod in the ſame Path before them. Upon moſt a Work of the Law has been very ſevere. Their Convictions have been deep, cutting, & for ſome Time abiding, not as we have formerly obſerved, like a Morning Cloud and early Dew that ſoon paſſeth away. In ſome a Law-Work has been carried on by Degrees, and at length arrived at an exceeding great Heighth. Others have been ſuddenly ſtruck as with an Arrow ſhot into their Hearts, and could be ſo particular as to condeſcend upon the particular Words in the Sermon that the Spirit of God made uſe of for their awakening.

(To be continued.)